

**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application captioned above.

**Listing Of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for screening compounds that are agonistic or antagonistic to the melvalonate pathway in sterol synthesis, comprising:

- a) providing: i) a test compound, ii) a growth media lacking arginine and containing a canavanine salt, and iii) modified yeast cells derived from wild type yeast cells, wherein said modified yeast cells express reduced cytosolic activity levels of Mod5p as compared to said wild type yeast cells, and wherein said modified yeast cells comprise a *CAN1* gene having a nonsense mutation and a gene coding for a nonsense suppressor tRNA;
- b) mixing said growth media and said modified yeast cells to form an untreated modified yeast cell mixture;
- c) adding an aliquot of said untreated modified yeast cell mixture to said test compound thereby creating a treated modified yeast cell mixture; and
- d) ~~measuring the growth of said modified yeast cells in said treated modified yeast cell mixture~~ measuring the growth of modified yeast cells within said treated modified yeast cell mixture and the growth of modified yeast cells within said untreated yeast cell mixture, wherein a difference in the growth of modified yeast cells within said treated modified yeast cell mixture and the growth of modified yeast cells within said untreated yeast cell mixture indicates the test compound has had an agonistic or antagonistic effect on the melvalonate pathway in sterol synthesis.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for screening compounds that are agonistic or antagonistic to the melvalonate pathway in sterol synthesis, comprising:

- a) providing: i) a test compound, ii) a growth media lacking arginine and containing a canavanine salt, and iii) modified yeast cells derived from wild type yeast cells, wherein said modified yeast cells express reduced cytosolic activity levels of Mod5p as compared to said wild type yeast cells, and wherein said modified yeast cells comprise a *CAN1* gene having a nonsense mutation and a *SUP7* gene coding for a tRNA;
- b) mixing said growth media and said modified yeast cells to form an untreated modified yeast cell mixture;
- c) adding an aliquot of said untreated modified yeast cell mixture to said test compound thereby creating a treated modified yeast cell mixture; and
- d) ~~measuring the growth of said modified yeast cells in said treated modified yeast cell mixture~~ measuring the growth of modified yeast cells within said treated modified yeast cell mixture and the growth of modified yeast cells within said untreated yeast cell mixture wherein, a difference in the growth of modified yeast cells within said treated modified yeast cell mixture and the growth of modified yeast cells within said untreated yeast cell mixture indicates the test compound has had an agonistic or antagonistic effect on the melvalonate pathway in sterol synthesis.

Claims 13-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method for screening for overexpressed genes, comprising:

- a) providing: i) an overexpressed gene wherein said overexpression alters the flux in the melvalonate pathway in sterol synthesis, ii) a growth media formulated to allow scoring of nonsense suppression in yeast, and iii) modified yeast cells derived from wild type yeast cells, wherein said modified yeast cells express reduced cytosolic levels of Mod5p as compared to said wild type yeast cells, and wherein said modified yeast cells comprise a gene with a nonsense mutation and a suppressor tRNA gene coding for a tRNA modified with isopentenyl adenosine by Mod5p;

- b) mixing said growth media and said modified yeast cells to form an untreated modified yeast cell mixture;
- c) adding an aliquot of said untreated modified yeast cell mixture with said overexpressed gene thereby creating an overexpressed gene treated mixture of modified yeast cells; and
- d) measuring the growth of said overexpressed gene treated mixture of modified yeast cells.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method, as claimed in claim 20, wherein said overexpressed gene is a yeast gene.